

OYSTER GARDENERSFoster Filter Feeders
for Indian River Lagoon **Pg. 16****CULTURAL EVENTS**Recognizing Brevard's
cultural diversity **Pg. 19****FIELD OF DREAMS**Passion fuels park for children
with disabilities **Pg. 24**

INSIDE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**LOOKING
BACK 2014
ANNUAL REPORT**

**MOVING
FORWARD IN
2015 WITH
STOCKTON WHITTEN
COUNTY MANAGER**

SAND DOLLARS:

PROJECTS HELP RESTORE THE
SHORELINE OF BREVARD COUNTY







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Since receiving initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) in 2006, it remains Coastal's goal to maintain the highest level of professional excellence. In 2012 Coastal was awarded its third national accreditation as one of only eleven CAAS accredited ambulance services in Florida to achieve this distinction, considered to be the gold standard in the ambulance industry. In 2015 we will be in the final review process for its fourth re-accreditation cycle. While difficult to meet, the standards that must be met for this accreditation demonstrate Coastal's steadfast dedication to the community and its partners in quality.

Community Partnerships.

Coastal Health Systems is a truly unique not-for-profit organization in partnership with Brevard's hospitals and Brevard County. Operating under the vision and guidance of a Board of Directors with members from Brevard hospitals and with the important oversight of the Board of County Commissioners, Coastal must meet the highest professional and service standards and remain capable of responding to the needs and vision of the county's health care and emergency services professionals alike. Coastal exemplifies the level of collaboration that exists within our community to deliver the high quality of service that our hospitals expect, our county leadership requires and our citizens deserve.

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As Brevard County's exclusive provider of non-emergency ambulance services, Coastal Health Systems makes important connections every day for the citizens of our community. For 27 years, our staff of trained professionals has safely transported hundreds of thousands of patients to and from various healthcare providers here in Brevard County and across our state and nation. Every day of every year, Coastal is on duty and playing a key role in Brevard's medical transportation system.

Quality Assured.

At Coastal "Quality" is a benchmark for day-to-day performance. Coastal believes quality must be measured in many different ways, from patient surveys, on time performance measures, to clinical indicator reviews and patient care report accuracy just to name a few. Coastal's franchise agreement with Brevard County mandates very specific performance parameters including one that establishes a minimum of 90% for on time performance.

Exceeding that requirement every year, Coastal's on time performance has averaged 97% over the past 10 years. Additionally, patients responding to Coastal's patient satisfaction survey have consistently rated their transports above 3.8 on a 4.0 matrix rating scale. Coastal takes performance standards very seriously and closely monitors how that performance meets the expectations of its patients, healthcare partners and county leaders.



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Welcome

to INSIDE BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Our sincere appreciation goes out to those businesses whose generous support made this publication possible, without the use of Brevard County taxpayer dollars. As chairman of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, I'm excited about the year ahead, signs of an improving economy and the many opportunities that lie ahead for our great county. In the months to come, my fellow commissioners and I will focus our efforts on building our economy through job creation, protecting our environment, conserving our valuable natural resources and providing quality services and programs for our community. Brevard County offers its citizens and visitors diverse experiences that range from historical to cutting-edge, metropolitan to pristine, and fast-paced to laid-back. The future is looking bright for the Space Coast. In 2015, we will continue to maintain and improve our community, take advantage of all the opportunities that will become available and work to create a better future for ourselves, our children and Brevard County.

Robin Fisher,
County Commission Chair



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 THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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2014 COUNTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Replacing the failed Palm Bay Road drainage culvert in record time, minimizing traffic disruptions and reducing flood risks in West Melbourne.
- Constructing Norfolk Parkway roadway and Hollywood and Henry intersection improvements.
- Extending financial support for Brevard Field of Dreams special needs ballfield development in West Melbourne Community Park.
- Providing City participation in the upcoming countywide law enforcement records management system upgrade.
- Contributing the first tax increment to the Joint West Melbourne-Brevard County Community Redevelopment Agency to support future improvements in the U.S. 192, Wickham and Ellis corridors.
- Awarding the construction bid for the extension of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway to U.S. 192.
- Budgeting for repaving Minton Road from U.S. 192 to Eber.

Scott Morgan, City Manager / Phone (321) 837-7771

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Citizens get behind-the-scenes look at County Government



THINK OF IT AS "BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT 101."

That's the premise behind the 2015 Citizens Academy, a University of Florida/Brevard County Extension Service program that invites county residents 18 and older to participate in a free educational crash course on the inner workings of county government and its departmental operations. Classes, which are held at various locations throughout Brevard County, began Jan. 7, and continue through March 25. It's not too late to participate, and residents are invited to attend any and all of the classes offered.

Topics offered during this year's academy include county budget development; why traffic signals operate like they do; how the landfill works; how the library selects the books that go on its shelves; how to handle code enforcement concerns; and a look at how the county prepares for disasters. There's also a course on how participants can make a difference in their community.

"The goal of the Citizens Academy is to create well-informed and engaged citizens," said Linda Seals, director of UF/Brevard Extension Service. "We go out into the community. We take

the government to them. Residents find out how they can work with local government to solve problems. It helps them understand their roles in local government, and from that they're more likely to become ambassadors, serve on advisory boards and to volunteer."

This year marks the second year in a row that UF/Brevard Extension Service has offered a Citizens Academy, a once successful program that the County put on hold due to budget cuts. Seals decided the program met the scope of Extension Service's core mission, and re-implemented the program in 2014, drawing 60 registrants.

"Folks learn a lot about the County budget," Seals said. "Many who participated last year did not realize the number of things their County government does. They might think, 'Well, Public Works builds road,' but they find out it's much more than that. Many were also surprised how much Housing and Human Services does. And they were also surprised by the passion each department director has."

In general, UF/Brevard Extension Service programs range from gardening to nutrition, financial management to 4-H, to public policy, environment and agriculture. Many of the agency's science-based education programs lead

to behavioral changes in participants. For example, the My Brevard Yard program, begun last year, is a hands-on program that teaches participants how to properly fertilize and care for their lawns, how to collect soil samples, how to calibrate a fertilizer spreader and how to properly set a landscape irrigation system. The program includes on-site visits to participants homes. The end result means a reduction in runoff into area waterways, including Indian River Lagoon.

"Everything we do in this office has an end result like that," Seals said. "It's residents working with local government to solve problems." ■

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

■ If you'd like to attend a Citizens Academy class, register at brevardcitizensacademy.eventbrite.com.

■ Classes are on Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and end March 25.

■ For more information, call (321) 633-1702 or email lseals@ufl.edu.

County Manager Stockton Whitten SIGHTS SET ON DEVELOPMENT, JOB GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION

BY ANNE STRAUB

A FRESH WAVE OF MOMENTUM IS CHARACTERIZING THE FIRST YEAR OF BREVARD COUNTY MANAGER STOCKTON WHITTEN'S TENURE.

Whitten took the reins of county management in May of last year. The transition was smooth and quick, as Whitten had been serving as deputy county manager and had been tapped to succeed Howard Tipton in the fall of 2013. In addition to the institutional knowledge that comes from working alongside the top manager, Whitten boasts two decades of history in Brevard.

"I don't think I'm guessing at who we are as a community," said Whitten, who came to Brevard to work as assistant to the county manager in 1994. "This is my home. This is a place I hope my kids come back to live. I'm invested."

He answers to a county commission that includes two newly elected commissioners. A new executive director of the Space Coast Office of Tourism is leading the effort to focus on marketing Brevard to visitors.

A native of Jacksonville, Whitten earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Florida. While working for Brevard, he earned an MBA from Georgia Southern. The academics and the work experience combine

to support Whitten's goal of using government to make residents' lives better. He believes the County's vision statement provides clear direction in that regard. The statement reads as follows.

A Community which excels and is recognized for...

- Providing for the health, education and social needs of our citizens;
- Protecting and conserving our valuable natural resources;
- Sustaining a strong and diverse economic base to financially support a quality lifestyle;
- Creating cooperative partnerships between government, business, community organization and our residents.

"I think over time our citizens have indicated that they believe in that vision," he said, citing voter approval of parks and environmental endangered lands programs, city and county tax exemptions for businesses, and the recent approval of the sales tax to fund capital projects for public schools.

He notes that the county tax abatement enjoyed its second renewal last fall, passing by the highest percentage ever among its three approvals.

Whitten is building on the business-friendly climate of the county by starting quarterly Developers' Roundtables. The county invites developers to join key county department heads to discuss growth issues, development activities and building trends in Brevard. The goal is to increase communication and improve efficiencies.

The county is looking into somewhat of a business opportunity itself. Officials have identified geographic sites that have issues with cell phone service and have found government-owned land that could meet the need for new towers. The county could generate revenue by leasing the land to cell companies that need to expand their cell network.

Brevard is enjoying an infusion of high-paying jobs—and service jobs to support the added growth—from expansions at Northrop Grumman and Embraer. Port Canaveral is enjoying growth in all four of its business lines: cruise, cargo, real estate and entertainment and recreation. Kennedy Space Center also remains at the forefront of space exploration technology. Other developments might make less



Workers prep wings of Phenom 300 at Embraer Executive Jets in Melbourne

“THIS IS MY HOME. THIS IS A PLACE I HOPE MY KIDS COME BACK TO LIVE. I'M INVESTED.”

Stockton Whitten,
Brevard County Manager



“I THINK IT’S THE PERFECT SPOT IN THE STATE TO LIVE. IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN FLORIDA, I DON’T THINK YOU CAN BEAT BREVARD COUNTY.”

Stockton Whitten, Brevard County Manager

exciting headlines, but are no less important to daily lives. The county is poised to break ground on Heritage Parkway, a north-south corridor that will alleviate traffic in Palm Bay at first and throughout South Brevard eventually. Rockledge residents can look forward to the widening of Barnes Boulevard.

The county’s largest current capital project ideally will remain as invisible as possible to residents. This year, the county is spending \$31 million in a comprehensive upgrade of Brevard’s water and wastewater system, much of which dates to the 1960s and ‘70s. The five-plus-year plan includes \$117 million in rehabilitation and improvements of water and wastewater infrastructure countywide.

The cumulative effect of the efforts is to ensure Brevard remains an attractive place to live and start a business. Whitten himself is an easy sell on the merits of Brevard. He and his wife, Kathy, who graduated from Cocoa High School and the University of Florida, have raised three children in the county. “I think it’s the perfect spot in the state to live. If you want to live in Florida, I don’t think you can beat Brevard County,” Whitten said. ■



The county will spend \$31 million this year upgrading the water and wastewater system.



Northrup Grumman Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence

SAND DOLLARS:

PROJECTS HELP RESTORE THE SHORELINE OF BREVARD COUNTY

BY MARIA SONNENBERG



WHEN YOU LIVE IN PARADISE, IT'S EASY TO TAKE OUR BEAUTIFUL BEACHES FOR GRANTED. BEACHES SEEM TIMELESS, BUT IN REALITY, KEEPING BREVARD'S SHORES THE WAY WE KNOW AND LOVE THEM TAKES A LOT OF CARE.

"Nearly half of Florida's sandy shorelines suffer from critical erosion. To keep Brevard County's beaches wide and welcoming year round, active management and periodic sand replacement are necessary," said Virginia Barker, Interim Director Brevard County Natural Resources Management.

Brevard County does an excellent job of maintaining beaches, a fact that did not escape the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), which last year named Brevard's North Reach as one of the nation's best restored beaches. The North Reach, which encompasses the beaches along Cocoa Beach and Cape Canaveral, is in excellent company, joining Iroquois Point Beach in Oahu, Hawaii, North Topsail Beach in North Carolina and Aquia Landing County Park in Virginia

as the four top restored beaches in the nation. "Brevard County prides itself in maintaining beaches in ways that look so natural that most people and nesting sea turtles don't realize it's a managed beach," said Barker.

Should local government forego beach restoration, those lovely sandy slices of Sunshine State life could disappear, but don't worry, for beach management is a priority in Brevard County. Beautiful sandy beaches provide recreational opportunities that lure many tourists to Florida. For residents, beaches endow us with a quality of life that constantly attracts new business and job opportunities. Beach restoration, or the process of placing beach-quality sand on dwindling beaches in order to reverse or offset the effects of

erosion, is the preferred method of shore protection in many coastal communities because it safeguards residential and business properties and sustains a dynamic ecological balance that would otherwise be replaced by seawalls.. "It is easy to forget what these beaches used to look like before restoration," said Barker. "At high tide, the water would be lapping against seawalls."

Brevard's North Reach is a leading model for beach restoration projects. The project overcame decades of frustration, thanks to a diverse group of stakeholders partnering to restore a highly eroded 9.4 miles of shoreline. "Its first restoration in 2000 was completed a year ahead of schedule and a million dollars under budget thanks to innovative construction techniques and collaborative determination. Its longevity and performance since 2000 have exceeded expectations due to additional innovative design recommendations," said Barker who was the County's Beach Manager back then.

BREVARD BEACHES

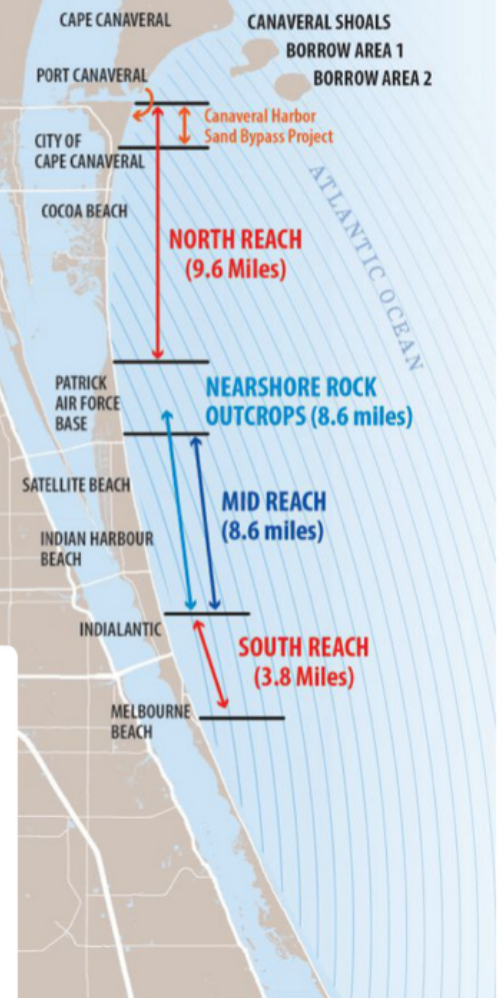
BREVARD COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT

MAP OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' REACHES

Management sponsored by Canaveral Port Authority, has enabled a shoreline previously rimmed with unsightly seawall and rock revetments to transform into a wide shoreline with flourishing dunes that draws tourists, residents and sea creatures to its inviting sandy shores.

"Brevard Beach caught our eye because it established wide dunes and beaches where in previous years erosion had completely eliminated the beaches and dunes," said Dr. Lee Weishar, chair of the Best Restored Beach Committee, responsible for the ASBPA top beaches selection. "The new beach is absolutely fabulous. Many thousands of people using these beaches most likely have no clue that this is a restored beach. This will provide Brevard a chance to educate the many lucky folks that get to use the beaches." There are plenty of candidates for ASBPA recognition, since the United States boasts 95,471 miles of shoreline. Snagging a Best Restored Beaches Award is no small feat for Brevard County.

Since 2000, Brevard County has spent \$134 million on restoring beaches, most of which was federal and state funding. Every penny of that is money well spent due to the tremendous economic return on investment. Beyond the recreational opportunities, good-looking beaches channel lots of money into the community. "The



“TO KEEP BREVARD COUNTY’S BEACHES WIDE AND WELCOMING YEAR ROUND, ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PERIODIC SAND REPLACEMENT ARE NECESSARY.”

Virginia Barker,
Interim Director Brevard County
Natural Resources Management

The North Reach beaches first became prone to erosion in the early 1950s after the United States Army Corps of Engineers erected jetties to stabilize a federal navigation channel at Port Canaveral. The jetties stabilized the channel at the cost of the surrounding beaches. Since then, despite extraordinary storm events (think hurricanes of 2004), restoration by Brevard County, combined with excellent Inlet



Seawall restoration at Sunny Lane, Cocoa Beach

BREVARD BEACHES

economic impact of beach tourism in Florida is \$55 billion annually; the annual impact in Brevard is \$1.6 billion. Healthy beaches are critical to Brevard's economic health," said Barker.

Beach restoration also saves beachfront buildings, warding off or at least lessening the destruction wreaked by natural events such as Superstorm Sandy. "Sandy did cause erosion here, but due to our beach restoration efforts, there was sand for Sandy to take away, instead of homes, hotels, beach park amenities and other infrastructure," said Mike McGarry, current Brevard County Beach Program Manager.

Additionally, for Mother Nature's wild children, restored

beaches provide a place to call home, a haven in which to thrive. Among the animals that benefit from beach restoration are the sea turtles, creatures drawn to Brevard during nesting season. For them, the beach has to be the right shape and the sand has to be the same color, grain size and texture as the natural beach that eroded. "Based on research by the University of Central Florida Marine Turtle Research Group, we have the most significant nesting beaches for loggerhead sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere and the most significant nesting beaches for green sea turtles in North America. Finding the right sand and designing our beaches with turtle nesting in mind has been vital to the success of our program," said Paula Berntson, Brevard County Beach Programs Assistant.

While the county is proud of its North Reach achievements and the South Reach in Indianalantic and Melbourne Beach that followed the North Reach with initial restoration in 2002-2003, it now looks to a new challenge: Satellite and Indian Harbour Beaches, or the Mid-Reach, an area that suffered great damage to structures during the hurricanes of 2004. A \$34 million beach renourishment project is planned for these beaches, with new sand expected as soon as 2017.

Beach restoration is not a one-time project, but rather an ongoing commitment from the community. "The North Reach renourishment interval was optimized for topping up every six years," said Barker. "You always have to maintain." Fortunately, Brevard can count on plenty of sand in naturally-occurring shoals in federal waters off the Cape. Transporting sand is an expensive



2000-2001 Cocoa Beach Pier Beach Restoration Project



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BEACH RESTORATION IS NEVER A ONE-TIME PROJECT, BUT RATHER AN ON-GOING COMMITMENT FROM THE COMMUNITY.



proposition, so the closer the supply is to Brevard, the less expensive the restoration will be. "Places like Broward and Dade have run out of sand, so they have been looking at bringing in sand from the Bahamas or trucking it from sand mines in Central Florida," said McGarry.

The ASBPA award recognizes Brevard County for developing and implementing a highly successful, turtle friendly and innovative beach management strategy. "In 2000, the North Reach was the largest federal nourishment project ever built. Traditional hopper pump-out techniques would have been slow and expensive," said Barker. "Instead, we permitted an area near the shore where split hull ships could quickly dump their sand in a rehandling area and head immediately back to the Cape for their next

load. Then a cutterhead dredge, anchored over the rehandling area, worked continuously to pump the sand to the beach. The size of the project made it cost effective to mobilize multiple pieces of specialized equipment to each perform the portion of work for which they were most efficient. The bid documents allowed traditional or innovative construction options so market forces could decide what was best. The innovative option was the low bid and propelled the project to completion way ahead of schedule."

As the weather warms, many tourists and residents alike will head to world-famous Cocoa Beach. The kids building sandcastles, the teens surfing and the adults sunbathing may not realize they are playing on a restored beach, but they will surely be enjoying the sandy benefits of Brevard County's hard work. ■

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Map of Cocoa Beach area:
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WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

CANAVERAL PORT AUTHORITY

Port Canaveral Delivers on Cruise, Cargo and Recreation Plans for Local Job and Revenue Growth

Port Canaveral is one of Brevard County's most powerful economic engines, generating nearly 17,000 local jobs annually. In 2014, its economic impact upon Central Florida reached \$3.5 billion; in the next decade, the goal is \$20 billion and preparations are accelerating.

The Port Authority hopes to increase cargo volume by 20-fold in the next decade to help transform Central Florida into an active trade and logistics hub to create 10,000 to 15,000 new local jobs. As part of its 20-year marine terminal agreement, GT USA will invest \$100 million in the Port's new world-class container facility that opens in April; two ship-to-shore container cranes also become operational this year; channel expansion is under construction with further deepening being studied; design development and regulatory

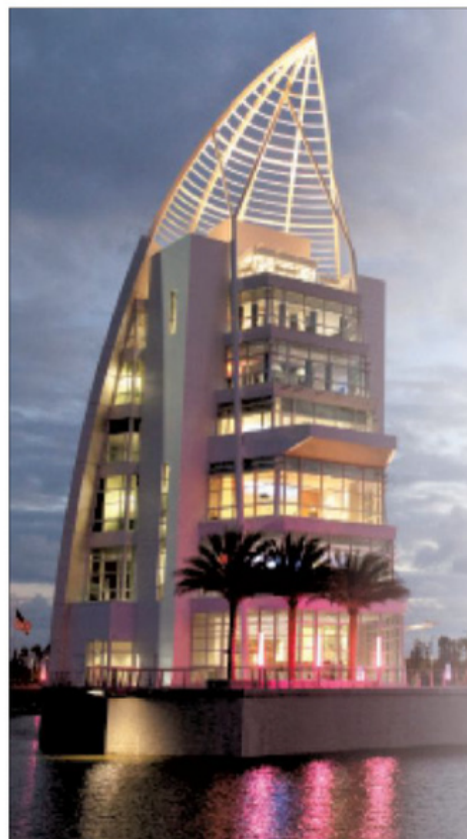
approval are progressing to bring rail to Port docks; and Class A warehousing is being developed on two off-site properties.

Expert projections show the Port's cruise passenger volume doubling by the late 2020s. To support this growth, the new Cruise Terminal 1 opened in December 2014. Planning has begun for the next new cruise facility and existing terminals are being enhanced to accommodate larger ships and incorporate technological advances.

Redevelopment of The Cove waterfront district is advancing as the developer finalizes designs and attracts key entertainment, recreation, shopping and dining tenants to the next phase, expected to



connect the Exploration Tower — a seven-story facility with interactive exhibits about Florida's Space Coast and events such as a recent Beach Boys concert — with a new port-of-call visitor gateway to The Cove at Cruise Terminal 1 Plaza. ■



Get Connected with Your Port

The Canaveral Port Authority invites you to **get connected** with your port and stay informed about its business and job impacts, as well as recreation opportunities. Come out to our monthly Commission meetings and public planning workshops. Or use the webcasting CPA CAM at portcanaveral.com to see and hear all the meeting announcements and discussions on your computer, as they happen or at your convenience later.

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MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Reduce your hassle factor – Fly MLB

Crowds at the colossal airports remind us how fortunate we are to have Melbourne International Airport (MLB) right in our backyard. Quick parking, short security lines and a hometown crew eager to assist passengers: that, in a nutshell, describes MLB.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the average ticket cost to fly from MLB is within \$10 of flying from “that other airport” that is located clear on the other side of the Beachline. **Add in the cost of gas, tolls, lugging luggage up and down escalators and the higher parking fees**, then include the anxiety of not knowing how long the wait times are or if there is an accident on the highway — **just how much is that seemingly lower ticket actually costing you?**

Greg Donovan is the executive director at Melbourne International Airport and points out that the airlines are “taking notice” of MLB’s pent up demand for air service. According to Donovan, “You’ll note that both Delta and American Airlines now provide first class accommodations on many flights out of our airport. They have worked hard to build loyalty among their passengers, and today’s passengers expect upgrades for their hard-earned points. Space Coast passengers are realizing how much can be accomplished by traveling from MLB and enjoying terminal amenities rather than being stressed out in traffic. With even more terminal improvements on the way, flying MLB is the smart choice for today’s savvy traveler. Donovan describes MLB as the



“Emerging Gateway to Florida” and is leading four major initiatives:

- 1. Increased air service** to feature non-stop flights to top destinations such as New York, Canada and Europe.
- 2. Transforming terminal** to reflect the unique qualities of our community.
- 3. New air traffic control tower** to keep in step with emerging technologies.
- 4. Development of a new Master Plan**, encouraging input from tenants, the community and airport users.

“Our airport must reflect and exemplify the unique qualities of our coastal community. Working with our passengers, tenants and neighbors, we are determined to have an airport that will not only accommodate growth but serve as a catalyst for strategic development.” He points to the first impression of arriving in an airport that is well-lit, gleaming and colorful, teeming with energy and retail options. “The Space Coast deserves an energetic first impression, and we’re working to provide that,” he emphasized.

Drawing no tax dollars from the community, MLB is a financially self-sustaining airport. It contributes more than \$1.2 Billion in positive economic activity, thanks to the world-class tenant companies, hospitals, universities and retail operations that choose to lease facilities from the airport. “Our tenants have first-class operations and accordingly, air service opportunities, particularly dual class, non-stop services have extraordinary potential,” said Donovan. “Based on the long-term and increasing commitments from companies such as Harris, Northrop Grumman, GE and Embraer, we are meeting those high expectations.”

Working in tandem with Brevard County Officials, the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast, the Space Coast Office of Tourism and others, MLB is poised for greatness and is aiming to dramatically increase the more than 7,000 jobs that are on campus today. For visitors, it serves as the gateway to Florida. But to Brevard County residents, said Donovan, “It’s our gateway and opportunity to the world.” ■

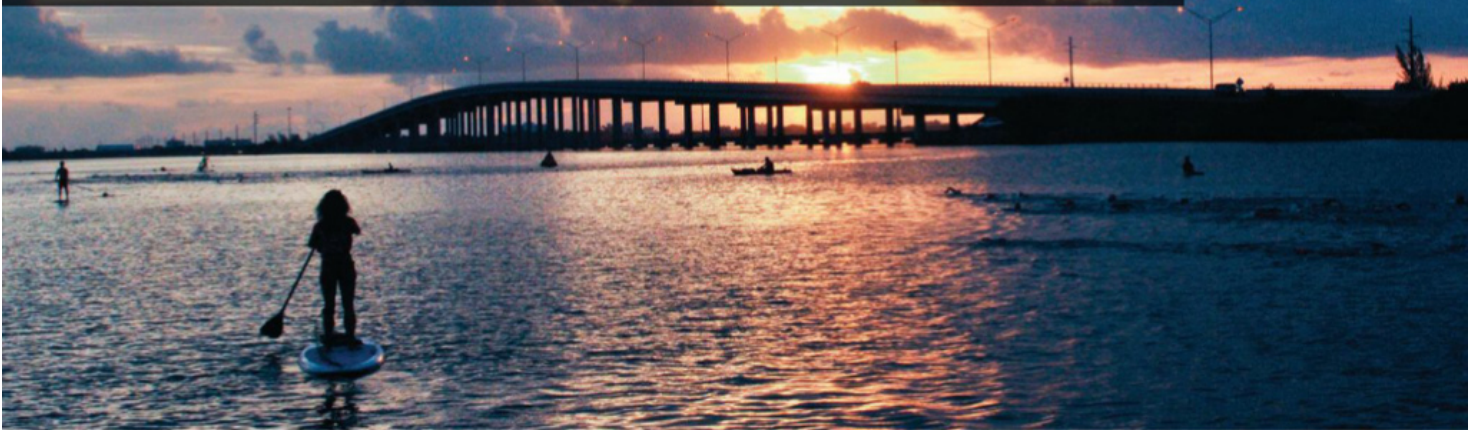


Greg Donovan, AAE
Executive Director



OYSTER GARDENERS

FOSTER FILTER FEEDERS FOR THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON



MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON IS IN TROUBLE, BUT THIS ESTUARY OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE HAS A HOST OF ALLIES FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE.

The Indian River, which also encompasses the Banana River and Mosquito Lagoons, is a unique 156-mile-long body of water that spans five counties from New Smyrna to West Palm Beach. The lagoon, home to more than 4,000 species of plants and animals, has in the past couple of decades been plagued by the byproducts of fertilizer runoff, muck, algal blooms and brown tides that have seriously compromised its health and caused disturbing mortality among manatees, dolphins, pelicans and other of its residents. "If the system was healthy, it could rebound from natural events such as tropical storms or extreme temperatures, but the Indian River is facing so many hardships at once that its natural resilience and ability to rebound has been compromised," said Virginia Barker, Interim Director Brevard

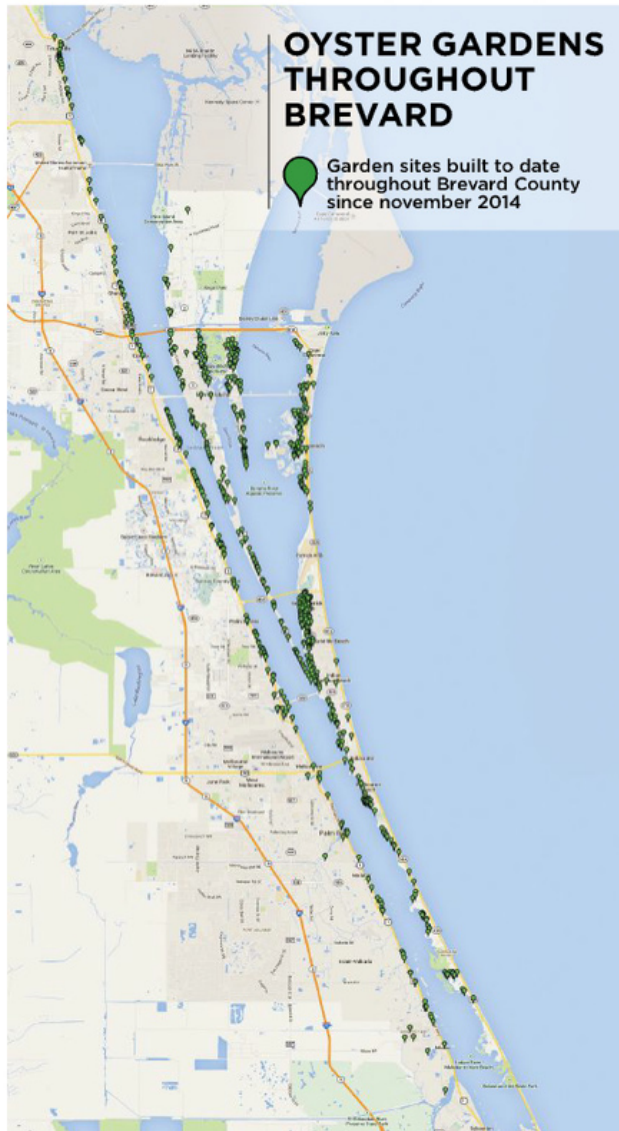
County Natural Resources Management. "For the Indian River Lagoon, multiple things need to be fixed concurrently."

Cities and counties throughout the shoreline of South and Central Florida have joined forces to save the lagoon. Because 71 percent of the lagoon is in Brevard, the county has launched a campaign to restore the lagoon's balance through a multi-pronged approach that will reduce pollutant and nutrient inputs, remove accumulations of detrimental muck, restore water-filtering oysters, clams and wetlands and research to determine which reduction, removal and restoration efforts will be most successful and cost-effective. The Indian River Lagoon's significance as an environmental and ecological treasure is important enough to warrant broad efforts to save its natural integrity, but, moreover,

the lagoon is also a major economic force, funneling approximately \$4 billion into East Central Florida through recreational use by residents and tourists alike.

First on the to-do list to help the lagoon regain its health was the adoption of more stringent fertilizer regulations that are already significantly reducing pollutant loads. "Sometimes we can have the mindset that if some is good, then more must be better, but that is not the case with fertilizer," said Barker. "Using more than the fertilizer packaging and local ordinances recommended allows the excess to wash off with irrigation or rainfall or soak through the lawn and pollute the ground water. Polluted runoff and polluted groundwater eventually pollute the lagoon." In the past, excess fertilizer and nutrients fed algae blooms and aquatic weeds that smothered sea life and fouled the water. "Aquatic weeds feed on fertilizer nutrients like lawns do, but when aquatic weeds die they release organic materials





More than 800 Brevard County waterfront residents have dedicated their time and efforts by growing native oysters in habitats hung from their docks.

The Indian River Lagoon was once an ideal home for oysters and clams, but overharvesting, pollutants, disease and/or burial by muck decimated the oyster harvest to less than one percent of what it was just 30 years ago. Oysters are highly desirable bivalves, not just because of their taste, but also because of the important habitat that oyster reefs provide for juvenile fish and crustaceans and because of their impressive filtering capabilities. "An adult oyster filters 50 gallons of water each day," said Barker. "They cleanse the lagoon."

An oyster's typical lifespan of 20 years means a healthy community of the creatures will work long term to keep the lagoon's water quality clean and clear. To restore oysters to the lagoon, the

“FOR THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON, MULTIPLE THINGS NEED TO BE FIXED CONCURRENTLY.”

Virginia Barker,
Interim Director Brevard County
Natural Resources Management

that accumulate in the lagoon as muck. Therefore, the County is also launching an aquatic weed harvesting program to reduce sources of muck," said Barker.

The State of Florida has also funded a \$10 million muck removal pilot project; one million of the amount will be used by Florida Institute of Technology to research the ecological response and effectiveness of removing deep accumulations of muck from areas of the lagoon known to be problematic, such as the mouth of Turkey Creek and portions of Sykes Creek. Dredging to remove the muck will begin in 2015.



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Volunteers, using plastic mesh and wire-bundling ties, bind shells to attract oysters.

county launched an Oyster Gardening and Reef Construction Program that partners with lagoon-front property owners. More than 1000 oyster gardeners have been trained through workshops managed by Brevard Zoo in partnership with County Natural Resource and University of Florida Extension Service staff. Last year, volunteers were provided with two-day-old oysters—also known as spat—to raise in habitats under their docks. By November, these volunteer citizen scientists had

turned in 50,000 oysters that were used to build oyster reefs in Port St. John, Marsh Harbor off the Banana River and in an area just north of Sebastian Inlet. Oyster Gardening partners and University of Central Florida researchers collaborated to build these reefs that will be expanded and studied throughout 2015. This project was also partly funded by the legislature.

The County's multi-pronged approach for lagoon recovery includes other facets too. Increasing the frequency of street-sweeping

and baffle box maintenance will reduce the amount of pollution that gets to the lagoon. Currently, drainage ditches deliver polluted runoff to the lagoon through 1500 outfall structures so building more stormwater treatment projects upstream of drainage outfalls will also reduce pollutant loading. Research is also underway on ways to increase the effectiveness of existing stormwater treatment projects.

Little by little with good stewardship practices by Brevard citizens and sound science applied to stormwater treatment designs, from more oysters to less fertilizers, the Indian River Lagoon can become healthy again. Saving the lagoon will not be an easy fix and the effort will be significant both from local governments and the community, but the mechanisms are in place and the Lagoon is expected to rebound. "Natural systems are extremely resilient if given a chance," said Barker. ■

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Brevard County Government Takes Active Role in **CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY**



“WE THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO PLAY A ROLE IN RECOGNIZING THE DIVERSE CULTURES THAT MAKE UP THE BREVARD COUNTY POPULATION.”

Venetta Valdengo
Assistant County Manager

BREVARD COUNTY’S BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FREQUENTLY PRESENT RESOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS CULTURAL EVENTS AND INITIATIVES HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, BUT THIS PAST YEAR BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT TOOK A HANDS-ON APPROACH IN RECOGNIZING CULTURAL DIVERSITY BY OPENING ITS DOORS AND HOLDING ITS OWN PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS.

Assistant County Manager Venetta Valdengo initiated the formation of a Cultural Diversity Committee made up of county government employees. The group organized the County’s first-ever community celebration of Black History Month in February 2014. More than 300 people attended the free event that recognized the significant contributions of African-Americans in Brevard County. Attractions included local artists, cultural displays, music, special guests and food.

That successful event was followed in September by the first-ever Hispanic Heritage Celebration, a cultural event recognizing the achievements, customs and legacies of Brevard County residents with roots in Latin America. Latin music filled the air around the Government Center in Viera along with the smell of empanadas, roasted pork and ceviche with shrimp, rice and chicken representing the Latin culture. The event, which coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month, included Salsa dancers, Latin music, arts and crafts.

By January, the Cultural Diversity Committee was working on plans to host its second Black History Month Celebration in February 2015. Call it a work in progress, but more are being planned this year and in the years to come to recognize other cultural and diverse aspects of the Brevard County population.

“We think it’s important to play a role in recognizing the diverse cultures that make up the Brevard County population,” Valdengo said. “Evidence that the community supports our initiative is the great turnout for our events, which has not only been overwhelming but has brought people together from all over the county for fun, fellowship and celebration.”

All of the events have proved successful thanks in large part to community sponsors, including Brevard Cultural Alliance, Health First, Sonny’s Real Pit Bar-B-Q, Ptani Eastern Caribbean Cuisine, WellCare, Space Coast Human Resource Association and Vitas.

In the coming months, Brevard County Government’s Cultural Diversity Committee will look at holding additional events recognizing and celebrating other diverse groups in the county. ■



Food and art displays were featured during Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Celebration.



ROAD REPAIR

BREVARD COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS RELIED ON INNOVATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP TRANSFORM A POTENTIAL NIGHTMARE ROAD PROJECT INTO A COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATION.

A coordinated effort spearheaded by Public Works Director John Denninghoff allowed county residents to follow the literal minute-by-minute progress of an emergency replacement of a collapsed stormwater drain at the busy Palm Bay intersection.

Fueled by cooperation with the cities of Palm Bay and West Melbourne, and community outreach via Social Media that included photos, Twitter and Facebook posts, press releases and time-lapsed

video, the \$650,000 project — targeted for completion in 11 weeks — was finished four weeks ahead of schedule. That benefited not only motorists and businesses along the heavy traffic corridor, but also thousands of area residential properties through enhanced flood protection as a result of an increase in drainage capacity.

The multi-faceted Palm Bay Road Culvert Replacement effort earned Brevard County Public Works recognition for one of the top stormwater-related construc-

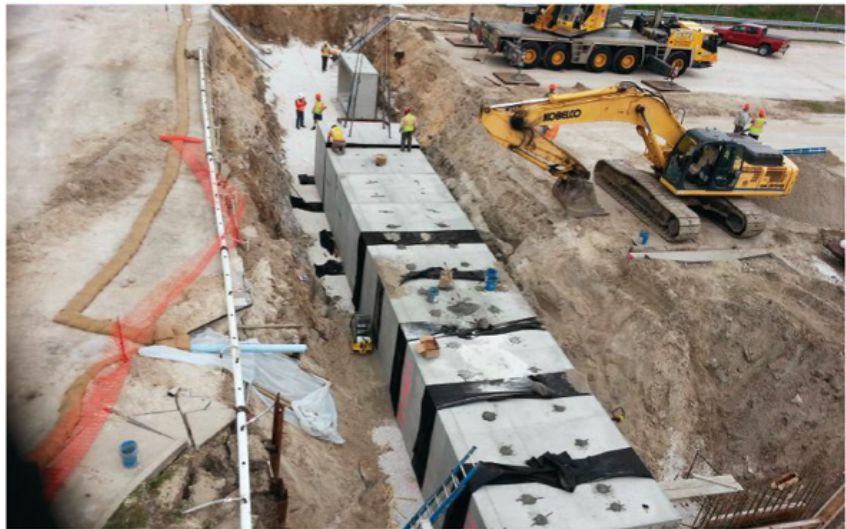
tion projects in the nation this past year by Storm Water Solutions Magazine.

The project, begun April 7, 2014 and completed May 7, 2014 closed Palm Bay Road and required 75,000 motorists to use alternate routes to reach businesses and residential area along the busy corridor, which links to Interstate 95. A steel culvert, which runs beneath all four lanes of Palm Bay Road at its intersection with Minton Road, was discovered corroded and partially collapsed in February 2014. Temporary repairs were made, but concerns of a road collapse and flooding prompted a decision to replace the stormwater drain pipe with a concrete culvert before the arrival of the hurricane season,



“THIS OUTCOME, WHILE NOT ALWAYS ACHIEVABLE, COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF HARD WORK AND THE WISE APPLICATION OF HARD-EARNED EXPERIENCE BY MANY COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS FUNCTIONING AS A UNIFIED TEAM WITH A CLEAR GOAL IN MIND.”

John Denninghoff
Public Works Director



Workers installed a new concrete culvert at Palm Bay Road/Minton Road intersection. The project was completed four weeks ahead of schedule.

which starts June 1.

To keep area residents and motorists up-to-date on the project's progress, the county also established a Facebook page devoted exclusively to providing daily updates while also establishing a communication tool for answering questions and responding to complaints whenever possible. Public comments ranged from outright annoyance on the front end to glowing reviews for the County for keeping

the public informed, providing feedback and for finishing well ahead of schedule.

All the staff, vendors, material suppliers, schedulers and other supporting agencies cooperated and participated taking ownership of their roles in perfect harmony with the rest of the team, Denninghoff said.

“This outcome, while not always achievable, could only have been achieved as a result of hard work and the wise application of hard-earned experience by many committed individuals functioning as a unified team with a clear goal in mind,” Denninghoff said. “The several programs within Public Works that were needed to complete this project included Road & Bridge Construction, Road & Bridge Maintenance, Survey, Engineering, Traffic Operations, Traffic Engineering, and our Administrative staff. I was most proud of the commitment of the County staff which helped achieve this outcome which I can say was truly outstanding.” ■

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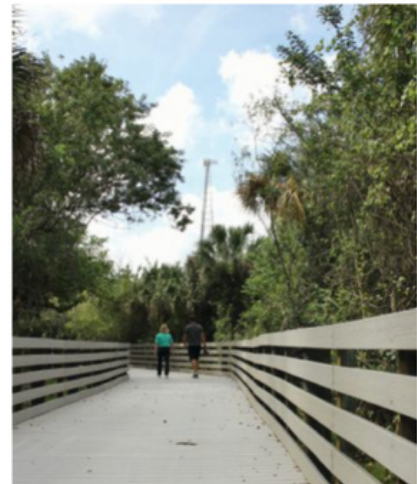
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Brevard Zoo Linear Park

A LINEAR WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

BY MARIA SONNENBERG



AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE BREVARD ZOO AND NOT FAR FROM INTERSTATE 95 LIES A WALK—OR JOG—INTO PRISTINE FLORIDA.

Brevard Zoo Linear Park is 1.1 miles of walking, running and bicycling possibilities on a 10-foot-wide elevated boardwalk that leisurely meanders through gorgeous wetlands and oak hammocks. "It gives you a great experience of the wetlands and the canopies," said Brevard County Parks and Recreation Director Jack Masson. "It is also a great partnership with the Zoo and a win-win situation for residents and visitors. It is an excellent cooperative project."

Almost 15 years in the making, the park opened in April of 2014 on land donated by the Duda family and funded through bond money approved in 2000 and 2006 voter parks referendums. The county built the trail with a 10-year agreement with Brevard Zoo, which is responsible for its operation and upkeep. The Zoo shouldn't have much upkeep for the boardwalk, designed by Melbourne architectural firm Brad Smith Associates and built by D.J. Haycock Construction of New Smyrna Beach. It features a sturdy, composite, recycled decking material that is designed for longevity. "It is so important in today's economy that you look at ease of maintenance in the future, so we built the park with that in mind," said Masson. Nevertheless, the Zoo's curator role is expected

to save the county at least \$25,000 a year.

Visitors can park on a lot adjacent to the Zoo and built by Brevard County Public Works. Under the cooperative agreement, the Zoo can also provide bike rentals and a concession stand. During a visit to the park, guests can take in the vista of a sweeping lake area donated to the county by S&S Enterprises and named in memory of the late Richard M. Gramling.

Open during Zoo hours, the current \$2.3 million Linear Park represents Phase One of three that will eventually result in the park winding down to Turtlemound Road. The Florida Department of Transportation has budgeted \$3.1 million in Fiscal Year 2017 for the construction of Phase Two, which will provide an addition of just under two miles of trails and take the park further south to the Pineda Extension.

Brevard Zoo Linear Park is a prime example of an urban trend to tuck outdoor experiences in wild, long pockets of land that would not be suitable for a more traditional park setting. Linear parks, always longer than they are wider, are popular in major metropolitan areas such as New York City, Boston and San Francisco. Some linear parks have sprung from decommis-

“IT GIVES YOU A GREAT EXPERIENCE OF THE WETLANDS AND THE CANOPIES...”

Jack Masson
Brevard County Parks and Recreation director

sioned railroad beds, or rails to trails.

The Brevard Zoo Linear Park has already proven a hit with residents and tourists alike. Whenever Masson visits the park, he runs into joggers, cyclists and families out for a stroll with the baby.

The nearby Wickham Road exit from Interstate 95 makes getting to the Linear Park a breeze. Here, it is Florida as it once was. "Brevard is blessed with recreational opportunities such as the Linear Park," said Masson. ■

Passion fuels all-access, multi-sport park project for children with disabilities

FIELD OF DREAMS BY ROSALIND WEISS

THE BOARD OF THE BREVARD COUNTY FIELD OF DREAMS, LOCAL AND STATE DIGNITARIES, ALONG WITH KEY SUPPORTERS, HOSTED A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY THIS PAST NOVEMBER AT THE SPORTS PARK'S FUTURE SITE LOCATED AT THE NORTH END OF WEST MELBOURNE COMMUNITY PARK, 3000 MINTON ROAD.

Ten years ago, retired Atlantic City firefighter and longtime Brevard County resident Jim Tapp realized that children and adults with disabilities in the community did not have a place to play sports;

and neither did the state.

"I couldn't believe that kids and adults with disabilities in Florida couldn't enjoy the same sports that I enjoyed as a kid," Tapp said. "I knew I had to make things right."

Tapp set out to speak to anybody and everybody that would listen about his dream to bring an all-access, multi-sport park to the area. After several years of almost constant outreach, Tapp finally started making headway when the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, in an effort initiated by Brevard County District 1 Commissioner Robin Fisher, transferred the former Max Rodes Park land to the City of West Melbourne with



"I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT KIDS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES IN FLORIDA COULDN'T ENJOY THE SAME SPORTS THAT I ENJOYED AS A KID, I KNEW I HAD TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT."

Jim Tapp
Retired Firefighter,
Longtime resident of Brevard County

a condition that a portion of the site be used for the Brevard County Field of Dreams. With the land now securely in place, excitement for the project rose to a fever pitch.

"Waste Management of Florida made a substantial multi-year commitment to the development and operation of the Brevard County Field of Dreams," said Tapp, "and then the Eckerd Foundation made a significant contribution to underwrite the fundraising effort that is still underway today."

But, the heightened momentum didn't stop there.

"Jim's fervor to see this sports park built really resonated with me," said Fisher. "I thought, 'I've got to help him make this happen.'"

Knowing their passion for people with disabilities, Commissioner Fisher met with Florida Speaker of the House



Steve Crisafulli and Senate President Andy Gardiner — both of whom represent Brevard County in addition to their leadership roles — to discuss the project and ask for state funding to get the Brevard County Field of Dreams off the ground. In June 2014, Gov. Rick Scott signed the state budget which awarded more than \$2 million to the Brevard County Field of Dreams. The financial foundation now laid, local businesses like Atkins, W&J Construction and Holeman Architects joined the team and offered their services at or below cost, a major savings to the project that maximizes every dollar raised. In addition, West Melbourne Mayor

Hal Rose, the West Melbourne City Council and City Manager Scott Morgan made the Brevard County Field of Dreams' first phase more realistic through the contribution of more than \$1 million in infrastructure costs to build the main access road and primary parking lot.

"Words cannot express how grateful we are to Rep. Crisafulli and Sen. Gardiner for their diligence in securing state funds for the first phase of the Brevard County Field of Dreams," Fisher said. "Along with the generous support of Waste Management, the Eckerd Foundation, the City of West Melbourne, Atkins, W&J Construction and Holeman Architects, the opportunity for people with disabilities to play sports with their friends and family is about to become a reality."

Cash and in-kind gifts raised thus far will be used to complete phase one of the multi-phase construction project. This phase includes hardscaping, a concession building, both handicapped and non-handicapped accessible restrooms, a handicapped-only parking lot, shaded seating, a soft-surface multi-purpose activity area, an all-access playground and a soft-surface baseball field. Future phases will include soft-surface basketball and volleyball courts, a soft-surface soccer field, flex space for performances or awards ceremonies, and a picnic shelter. All will feature special shade structures to keep athletes cool.

"This complex is helping children who may not have otherwise been able to play sports realize their dreams and I am proud to have a helping hand in making it happen," said District 5 Commissioner Andy Anderson. "The Field of Dreams is going to be a huge asset to our community." ■



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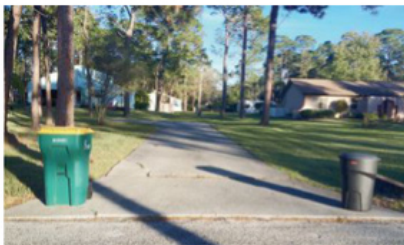
Use a 40 gallon can, not to exceed 50 pounds in weight, for pine needles, leaves, small twigs, palm fronds and tree/shrub trimmings



Place yard waste in a small pile with a uniform pattern, all branches/limbs in same direction



Ensure yard waste is 4 feet in length, 24 inches in diameter



Place at a minimum of 5 feet from your garbage/recycle cart

NOT This:



Bagged yard waste



Branches/limbs in different directions



Larger than 4 feet in length



Under bushes and low hanging trees or power lines

DID YOU KNOW?

Brevard County Ordinance NO. 94-49 states hired landscaping, land clearing or tree trimming services must remove any vegetative waste they generate on residential and commercial properties. Waste Management is NOT required to collect yard waste created by a contractor.

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Loose materials such as pine needles, leaves, small twigs, palm fronds and tree/shrub trimmings must be containerized in reusable garbage cans, 40-gallon or less. Please do not bag yard waste.

Branches and limbs can be no longer than 4 feet in length, 24 inches in diameter, less than 50 pounds in weight, separated from other solid waste and must be stacked uniformly within 5 feet of your curb.

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- 2 KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY
- 3 NO PLASTIC BAGS

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Do NOT include in your mixed recycling cart:



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NO Plastic Bags & Film



NO Foam Cups & Containers



NO Needles



NO Propane Tanks

MYTH: It doesn't matter if something belongs in the recycling cart, the hauler will sort everything anyway

ANSWER: False

There are increasing amounts of non-recyclables sent to Material Recovery Facilities, and every single one of them must be removed by hand by trained staff and/or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating high value recyclables. Non-recyclable garbage placed into recycling containers increases the cost of the recycling process and will increase the cost of garbage and recycling collection service.

Similarly, recyclable items placed into garbage containers are usually hauled to a landfill. Recyclables in a landfill cannot be recovered effectively. Even if further processing takes place, the full value is lost. The right thing to do is to put the all the right recyclables in the recycling container and non-recyclables into the garbage containers. Recyclables with the greatest impact are bottles, cans, and paper.

MYTH: The recycling arrows (Mobius) on a container means it is recyclable at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

ANSWER: Only in some cases

Manufacturers strive to get eco-friendly information on their product labels. It sells.

The FTC requires that a product have at least 60% access to local programs (like Material Recovery Facility processing) across the U.S. to include the Mobius on their products. However, the Mobius is not a reliable indicator of whether something gets recycled. There are thousands of plastic products and packaging, and each one has its own unique chemical recipe. Many plastics cannot be made into new products at this time. Recycle plastics by shape: bottles, jars, jugs and tubs.



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South Brevard ■ (321) 723-4455

email: centralfloridaservice@wm.com ■ www.wm.com

Brevard County's Annual Report

LOOKING BACK AT 2014

BY
STOCKTON WHITTEN

THIS SECTION SERVES AS BREVARD COUNTY'S 2013-14 ANNUAL REPORT. EACH DEPARTMENT IS LISTED, ALONG WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITS FUNCTIONS, HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

We are proud of the way in which the County has continued to serve its residents, in light of fiscal constraints. Brevard is the 10th-largest* county in the state of Florida, with the 10th-lowest* tax burden.

Looking back at 2013-2014, our local economy showed signs of rebounding thanks in large part to a number of factors attributable to the resourcefulness of County Government:

- Board leadership and partnership with Economic Development Commission
- County government initiatives to become more business friendly in both the SNAP and Open for Business Initiatives
- County's low tax environment as reported in the 2010 Tax Watch Study and Florida Institute of Technology Economic Professor Dr. Slotkin
- Key investments in Public Safety that make Brevard County a safe place to live, work and play
- Quality of life including, but not limited to our outstanding beaches, parks and recreation system, Library system, Arts & Culture, and preservation of Environmental Endangered Lands

When looking at the County's 2013-2014 budget, it is important to understand the requirements of governmental budgeting and fund accounting. You may have heard that the County has a budget of approximately \$958.5 million, and while that is true, it includes both recurring and non-recurring sources of revenue.

Actually, the County had a \$538.9 million recurring budget for FY 2013-2014, far less than \$1 billion. Of that, \$281.7 million was restricted to services such as Utilities, Solid Waste, and Roads, and could not be used to support other government functions, due to legal restrictions, voter-approved referendums, grant requirements, and federal and state guidelines.

The overall \$197 million budgeted for our general government operations includes allocations to elected constitutional officers (Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, and Property Appraiser), board departments, court services, state mandates, and outside agencies.

As we move forward, the County Commission and our employees remain committed to providing you quality service and great value.

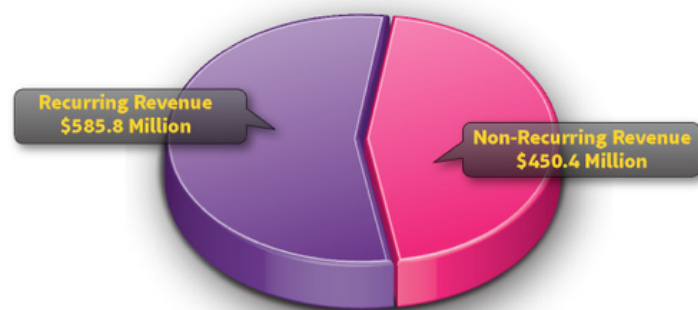
(321) 633-2153 ■ BrevardCounty.us/Budget

Budget Question & Answer

Q&A WHAT IS THE MAKE-UP OF THE 2014-2015
BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
\$1,036.2 MILLION BUDGET?

The budget is separated into two parts—Recurring and Non-Recurring revenue.

- A recurring revenue source (\$585.8M) is a source of money used to support county expenditures, which by its nature can be relied upon, at some level in future years. These sources of funds can fluctuate in value from year to year.
- A non-recurring revenue source (\$450.4M) is a one time source of money available to the county. It cannot be relied upon in future years.



Q&A WHAT ARE THE REVENUE SOURCES OF THE \$585.8M RECURRING REVENUE BUDGET?

The \$585.8M recurring revenue budget is the primary source to fund operating expenditures for the county. The sources of revenue range from property taxes to grants from state and federal agencies. Approximately \$312M of the (\$585.8M) operating revenues are restricted for services such as Utilities, Solid Waste, and Roads, and cannot be used to support other government functions.

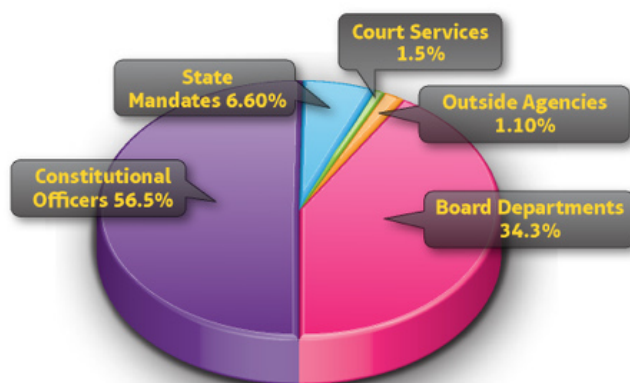
Q&A ON MY TAX AND ASSESSMENT BILL, I SEE VARIOUS RATES FOR TAXES.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? Property tax and assessment bills can differ for each homeowner and vary based on where they live, property values, exemptions and the rates set by various taxing authorities. This chart shows the distribution of one dollar of property taxes and assessments for a residence in the City of Palm Bay with a taxable value of \$100,000.

From the example to the left, 27 cents is allocated to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. The remaining portions are allocated to the School Board 38 cents, Municipality 32 cents, Water Management Districts and Independent Special Districts 2 cents. These agencies operate independently of the Brevard Board of County Commissioners.

**Q&A HOW ARE GENERAL REVENUES ALLOCATED?**

General revenues are allocated to elected constitutional officers (Sheriff, Clerk to the Board, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, and Property Appraiser), state mandates, court services, outside agencies (economic development, community based organizations, and Brevard Cultural Alliance) and county departments under the Board of County Commissioners.



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Library Services

800-210-0357 ■ BrevardCounty.us/PublicLibraries

Brevard County Libraries provides a full range of services to Brevard County citizens from Micco to Mims, including 17 public libraries.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Served 2.8M visitors despite lower staffing levels
- Helped 1.6M visitors with reference services, including online job and government services applications
- Helped 250,000 children in reading programs, homework and science projects
- Checked out five million items
- Provided 5,864 educational programs for adults and children
- Utilized meeting rooms 42,815 hours for community groups



Ned T. Kellar,
Executive
Director of
Brevard Library
Foundation

Brevard County Government congratulates Ned T. Kellar, Executive Director of Brevard Library Foundation, on his retirement, effective Feb. 28, 2014. As a founding member, Kellar has led the 25-member board since the Foundation's inception in 2000. In that time, the Foundation has raised more than \$1 million for county libraries.

Among other Foundation accomplishments:

- A.** Funded the purchase and equipping of a Mobile Library, a project that opens the doors to a library experience for children who otherwise would never attend a local library. In its seven years of operation, the Mobile Library:
- Presented 5,000+ programs to pre-school children, with the majority of those programs being directed toward children in homes at or below the national poverty level as well as elderly, shut-in adults with no other access to the Library Systems.
 - Attendance at those programs has well exceeded 40,000, and,
 - Has given over 30,000 books to the children in attendance. (For many of the children it was the first book they had ever owned.)
- B.** Added well over 10,000 children's books to the 17 libraries in Brevard County.
- C.** Made over 40-plus grants to the libraries in Brevard County.
- D.** Partially funded eight countywide Family Reading Festivals.
- E.** Raised funds, renovated and opened the first library café in the Central Brevard Reference Center.
- F.** Renovated and relocated to the River House as our office complex. This beautiful 1924 home is a great source of pride and beauty for the foundation, as well as two other non profits who call this great place home.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- E-books continue to surge in popularity. Brevard library patrons have checked out over 469,295 e-books since the service began in 2011. Monthly e-book checkouts average more than 17,600, which is higher than the monthly physical book checkouts at the two smallest libraries
- Talking Books department provided library services to 1,800 blind or physically disabled citizens and added a Sorenson machine for the hearing impaired at Central Brevard Library and Reference Center
- Mobile Library has been upgraded with new flooring, shelving and a generator to continue to serve 7,000 citizens annually

2015 GOALS

- Tablets for children: Second year in partnership with United Way of Brevard and other local agencies to increase literacy in young children. iPads will be deployed in each library's Youth Services Department, allowing young readers to develop reading and computer skills. Children participating in Brevard Public Schools myON project will be able to access accounts using library iPads
- Creative Lab: In conjunction with Brevard Library Foundation, a new Creative Lab will include video and audio equipment, electronic kits and a 3-D printer, purchased with community support. Libraries will partner with community agencies, including Brevard Cultural Alliance, to provide training classes. Target date for operations is fourth quarter 2015
- Staffing realignment: Changes will allow for increased staff in Youth Services areas, and our two smallest libraries, Mims/Scottsmeer and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to expand open hours from 32 to 40 per week

Utility Services

(321) 633-2091 ■ BrevardCounty.us/UtilityServices

Utility Services provides for the protection of the public health through the operation and maintenance of public-owned water and wastewater systems.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Provided approximately 76,225 customer connections
- Maintained 1,034 miles of wastewater lines
- Maintained 123 miles of reclaimed water lines
- Maintained 223 miles of drinking water lines
- Operated and maintained 273 pump stations
- 8,000 laboratory samples analyzed
- 12,727 "utility locates" performed
- More than 8,903 maintenance work orders completed
- Approximately 160 land development plan reviews
- Replacement of Barefoot Bay Water Treatment Plant Filter Splitter Box
- Replacement of Barefoot Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant East Ring Steel Plant
- Rehabilitation of Sykes Creek M-20 Lift Station Wet Well
- Gravity sewer lining in South Beaches, Sykes Creek and South Central service areas



POINTS OF INTEREST:

Utility Services Department operates six wastewater treatment plants and three drinking water plants, providing quality drinking water, reclaimed irrigation water and wastewater services throughout Brevard. It is funded by user fees, not tax dollars.

- Daily treatment capacity of wastewater, 21.8 million gallons
- Daily treatment capacity of drinking water, 3.5 million gallons
- Utility Services employees, 159



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Information Technology

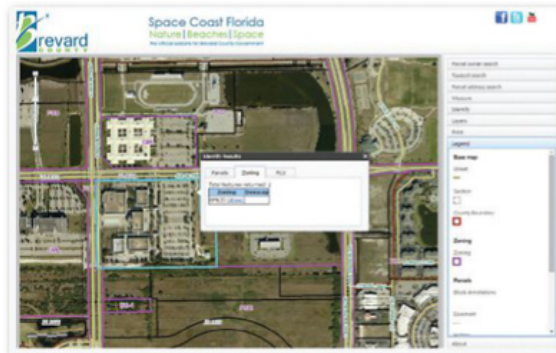
(321) 617-7395 ■ BrevardCounty.us/InformationTechnology

Information Technology provides telecommunications support, computer system management and security, and software development support and services to County agencies in order to increase the efficiency of County personnel in meeting their obligations to the citizens of Brevard County.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Consolidated locations with multiple circuits and provided a single wireless shared network at a reduced cost
- Developed a Geographic Information System web mapping application that shows zoning, future land use, parcels, and aeriels to citizens
- Upgraded CARLX, the Integrated Library System. Increased functionality, provided enhancements, and 'bug' fixes
- Upgraded and expanded data storage, which allows for expansion and growth of applications along with increased data integrity and survivability. Minimizes costs associated with data expansion
- Expanded Wi-Fi coverage at Library branches

Geographic Information System web mapping application that shows zoning, future land use, parcels, and aeriels to citizens.



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- I.T. manages over 1,800 personal computers and over 175 computer servers for the County
- I.T. provides telephone services to over 2,300 employees across County Departments and multiple Constitutional Offices

2015 GOALS

- Evaluate data needs of individual departments and analyze requirements to consolidate services or technology advancements
- Provide infrastructure for development of, and access to, public G.I.S. mapping websites using G.I.S. application development technologies that maximize device compatibility
- Increase usability of Library's online services
- Improve ability to monitor critical network and server infrastructure in order to resolve problems either before they happen or rapidly thereafter

"Life is 24/7, so are we."

Brevard
2-1-1TM
Get Connected. Get Answers.

Trained specialists at 2-1-1 Brevard help residents with questions about community resources around the clock. They also offer crisis and suicide intervention.

In the past fiscal year, specialists answered more than 38,000 calls and the nonprofit's online resource database had more than 25,000 visits.

2-1-1 Brevard is funded in part by the Brevard County Department of Housing and Human Services. Also, 2-1-1 Brevard works with Emergency Management to support residents before, during and after a potential disaster, such as a hurricane.

Dial 2-1-1 for help. Or find the resource database at www.211brevard.org.

Human Resources

(321) 633-2031 ■ BrevardCounty.us/HumanResources

Human Resources recruits applicants for employment; provides pre-employment drug testing; processes new employees; maintains personnel records; recruits volunteers and interns for Brevard County government agencies; ensures equal employment; provides internal training opportunities; provides Risk Management services; and benefits administration.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Since 2006, the Human Resources Department has worked to develop and enhance leadership skills not only among Brevard County Government employees, but across Brevard County's public sector through the Executive Leadership Institute.

ELI, a 15-month employee development program, starts off with a team-building/bonding exercise and includes numerous interactive training workshops and instruction and mentoring on a variety of leadership enhancement topics, including core values, personal leadership, strengths and communication skills, team building and ethics in government. Participants are also required to complete a three-day course on Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

So far, there have been nine graduating classes with each class consisting of 24 to 28 participants. Palm Bay, Melbourne, Cape Canaveral, Satellite Beach, Titusville, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Property Appraiser's Office, Clerk of Court and City of Rockledge have been represented among the nearly 200 graduates since the program's inception. Attendees have

included incoming department and office directors; mid-level managers and supervisors; and employees of elected officials and local municipalities.

Program instruction focuses on these key areas of development:

- Self Awareness
- Coaching and developing others
- Building trust
- Inspiring others
- Facilitating change
- Leading through vision and values

**ELI begins
its 10th class
in March.**

In 2011, alumni of the ELI program started the "Hands on Brevard!" initiative in which graduates continue growth and networking opportunities through quarterly activities such as book discussions, leadership events and team-building activities, including volunteering opportunities in the community.



Valkaria Airport

(321) 952-4590 ■ BrevardCounty.us/ValkariaAirport

Valkaria Airport is a General Aviation airport open 24/7 that provides operational oversight of four active runways, associated taxiways, parking areas, tie downs and seventy-one T-hangar units. Additionally, the airport provides land and facilities for the Habitat golf course and southern Brevard County Mosquito Control.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed Rehabilitation of Apron and Taxiway — Bravo
- Completed Construction of New Hangars Row-D Project
- Completed Construction & Rehabilitation of Runway 10/28
- Completed and Opened Skyman Park
- Opened Radio Controlled Car Race Track

2015 GOALS

- Airport Master Plan Update
- Design and Permit New Airport Administration & Flight Services Facility
- Update Fuel Farm Equipment, Pumps, and Credit Card Reader
- Design and Permit New Hangar-F Project
- Open Quarter Midgets of America track



Emergency Management

(321) 637-6670 ■ BrevardCounty.us/EmergencyManagement

Emergency Management provides governmental control and coordination of emergency operations; develops and maintains the County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; coordinates emergency management activities, services and programs within the county; administers and maintains the countywide Public Safety radio system and provides coordination and administration of the E 9-1-1 system.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Successfully passed St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant exercise evaluated by FEMA for Reception Center Operations and Emergency Operations Center support
- Developed, tested and implemented a SharePoint software program to support Emergency Operations during a disaster with the assistance of Information Technology Department. The program is known as Brevard Operations Base
- Conducted two municipal hurricane exercises, collaborating with seven municipalities in Brevard County
- Conducted an infectious disease functional exercise with participation from Brevard County Fire Rescue, a local hospital, and municipal fire and law enforcement assets
- Completed and submitted final draft of the Local Mitigation Strategy to the Florida Division of Emergency Management for approval
- Reviewed emergency plans for 111 health care facilities
- Registered more than 1400 Special Needs applicants, and assigned them to appropriate shelters
- Developed Large Animal Rescue Technical Guide, and detailed Shelter Book, both recognized by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) as best practices
- Completed a new tower in Scottsmeer, replaced a tower in Barefoot Bay, and upgraded a tower in Sharpes, for expansion of 800 MHz Public Safety Radio System coverage
- Reprogrammed 5427 public safety radios, which are now ready for first cutover to the Simulcast System

Brevard Passes Full-Scale Radiological Exercise:

Updates to the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program in 2014 included revisions to the Radiological Contingency Plan and development of a Standard Operating Guide for the Radiological Emergency Reception Center. The REP program requires annual exercises based on these plans and procedures. 2014 Exercise participants demonstrated the ability to provide for Emergency Operations and for medical screening and sheltering should the need arise as a result of an incident at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant that resulted in residents from the area evacuating. Every other year FEMA evaluates REP exercises. 2014 was an evaluated year and Brevard received a passing score having no areas requiring corrective action. The evaluation of each exercise provides for stronger response capabilities and this exercise was no exception. Lessons learned from this full scale exercise will be acted upon and practiced during upcoming annual exercises, drills, and workshops.

Participants included the following Brevard County agencies and organizations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ 2-1-1 Brevard | ■ Brevard County Human Resources |
| ■ American Red Cross, Mid-Florida Region | ■ Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Services (BEARS) |
| ■ Brevard County Animal Services & Enforcement Department | ■ UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County |
| ■ Brevard County Fire Rescue | ■ Florida Department of Transportation |
| ■ Brevard County Housing and Human Services Department | ■ Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission |
| ■ Florida Department of Health in Brevard County | ■ Florida Highway Patrol |
| ■ Brevard County Emergency Management | ■ Salvation Army |
| ■ Brevard County Planning and Development | ■ Space Coast Area Transit |
| ■ Brevard County Public Works | ■ Space Coast Government Television/Communications |
| ■ Brevard County Purchasing Services | ■ Space Coast Office of Tourism |
| ■ Brevard County Sheriff's Office | ■ Brevard County Utility Services |
| | ■ Patrick Air Force Base (Situational Awareness) |

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Do you have an unlisted phone number? Is your only phone a cell phone? If so, then you will not receive emergency call notifications regarding your home, such as boil water notices, or evacuation notices for events such as gas leaks.

Stay informed: Register your phone number with Emergency Management via the self registration portal.

Here are the simple and easy steps:

Go online to alertregistration.com/brevardfi/ or embrevard.com and click on the "alert signup" button.

■ Follow the simple directions to fill in contact information.

■ Once registered, if we do a call notification in your area, you will now be notified.

For more information, contact Emergency Management, at 321-637-6670.

Please share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors.



Fire Rescue

(321) 633-2056 ■ BrevardCounty.us/FireRescue

Fire Rescue is dedicated to providing professional, progressive, caring service to citizens. Additionally, the Ocean Rescue staff seeks to protect both citizens and visitors to the county's beaches.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Brevard County Ocean Rescue, in cooperation with Brevard County Information Technology, launched an innovative mobile beach-safety website. Visit www.brevardcounty.us/beachsafety to access information on the surf forecast, rip-current warning, hours and locations for lifeguards and more
- Award winner from 2014 National Association of Counties for in-house building of 19 brush trucks, saving Brevard County \$3M. Fleet department expanded use of free military surplus vehicles and did full, customized builds of 14 Type 4 trucks and five Type 6 trucks
- Station 89 co-located with Palm Bay Fire Rescue's Station 6, on DeGroodt Road next to Bayside High School. The newly renovated and jointly operated station is equipped with Brevard County's two-person ambulance crew and Palm Bay's four-person engine crew along with a brush truck
- BCFR EMS provided 861 Vials of Life to community members countywide to protect residents' medical information for emergency personnel
- BCFR EMS, with Emergency Management, coordinated an ebola preparedness exercise that included BCFR, Rockledge fire and police departments and Wuesthoff Health Systems
- Transmitted more than 2,300 electrocardiograms to local hospitals from patients who were presenting signs of a heart attack—reducing delays in patient care
- Initiated a program on career opportunities in fire service and rescue with a goal of helping lower-income residents gain education and training through grants and other financial aid



Jointly trained and prepared for active shooter incidents in the form of a casualty recovery team.

BCFR helped coordinate ebola preparedness exercise.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Provided 90,061 hours of firefighter training and 17,090 hours of Emergency Medical Services training to firefighters and paramedics, and hosted three Blue Card certification programs for the Melbourne and Rockledge fire departments and Palm Bay Fire Rescue
- More than 3M people visited a lifeguard-protected beach
- Processed 93,215 E-911 calls through Communications Center
- Fire Prevention received a fire training simulator via grant to train firefighters and public on safe uses of fire extinguishers
- EMS attended over 500 patients that were transported to trauma centers and over 400 patients requiring stroke management

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Housing and Human Services

(321) 633-2007 ■ BrevardCounty.us/HumanServices

Housing and Human Services contributes to Brevard's quality of life by assisting citizens in meeting health, social, and housing necessities.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- More than 6,050 household received help through the Community Action Agency with \$2M in funding from state Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Community Services Block Grant and local Emergency Assistance Funding
- Helped 251 Brevard County residents in efforts to prevent loss of their homes through Florida Housing Finance Corporation's Hardest Hit Program. Assisted Thirty-six residents in modifying mortgages to prevent foreclosure
- Received over \$1M in federal funds to award to nonprofits helping the homeless or those in danger of homelessness, as lead agency for Brevard Homeless Coalition
- More than \$510,200 was provided to eight Community Based Organizations that administered 11 programs/services to help thousands of residents, including transportation and support for the elderly; emergency food, and counseling, information and shelter for survivors of domestic violence
- Provided drainage improvements, street reconstruction and paving, sewer improvements, neighborhood signage, and sidewalks with more than \$3.1M in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds
- Conducted more than 100 inspections, completed two replacement homes, rehabilitated 36 homes, and weatherized 57 residences using over \$800,000 in Federal Home Investment Partnership and State Housing Initiative Partnership funding
- Rehabilitated 15 foreclosed homes, which are available for purchase or rent for income-eligible clients through Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Sold ten homes and rented six.
- Created twelve affordable rental housing units with state and federal funds.
- Provided client claims assistance in more than 17,233 cases and helped obtain \$114M in Veterans Affairs benefits through Brevard County Veterans Services Team



Installation of box culverts on Mobil Avenue.

Central Services

(321) 637-5492 ■ BrevardCounty.us/CentralServices

Central Services supports all County operations by acquiring and maintaining quality goods and services with three distinct programs including purchasing services, asset management, and fleet services.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Implemented online auctioning and expanded marketing strategies to increase exposure of merchandise being sold, resulting in increased exposure and higher profits generated from the sale of surplus County assets
- Generated \$600,000 revenue through sale of surplus equipment and property
- Continued accounting and financial tracking of over \$764,000 in capital assets

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- Completed Deputy Barbara A. Pill Law Enforcement Facility, an 18,500 square-foot building for patrol and investigative units assigned to North Brevard
- Completed Brevard Zoo Linear Park, a 10-foot wide boardwalk made from recycled-plastic planks
- Commenced \$15M Energy Performance Contract for energy efficiency projects to be repaid with annual energy savings

FLEET SERVICES

- Provided maintenance and repair for over 1,400 vehicles and equipment

- Maintained nine fueling sites
- Provided maintenance/repair for 188 emergency generators
- Upgraded the Fleet Maintenance/Inventory database for improved maintenance and fuel use tracking
- Initiated systematic clean-up and renovation of aging garage facility
- Established in-house tire repair facility
- Placed new County Logo on the garage facing Wickham Road

Fleet Services - 2015 Goals

- Fleet Services is focused on improving the experience of customers. Upgrading the fleet software will allow customers to schedule vehicle maintenance online, and will result in a more proactive preventive maintenance program. Other initiatives include:
- Establishing automated preventive maintenance system, driven by mileage reading from fueling entries
- Establishing online Work Request system for vehicle repair
- Establishing loaner fleet for customers leaving vehicles for service

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Brevard County has the seventh largest veteran population in Florida with 66,291. Veterans Affairs compensation and pension benefits for Brevard veterans were the third largest amount in Florida at \$248 million
- On average, there are almost 200 successful terminations of felony Pre-Trial Release each year and 400 successful terminations of Community Supervision in programs staffed by Brevard County Community Corrections officers to provide court-ordered supervision



Box culverts installed as part of Tropical Storm Fay grant.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Interested in buying surplus property? Visit us online at www.brevardcounty.us/CentralServices to obtain information on bidding opportunities and surplus sales.

- Establishing a Customer Service counter to accelerate vehicle drop-off and pick-up
- Completing replacement of old County Seal with new County Logo on all vehicles

PURCHASING SERVICES

- Joined Florida Association of Public Procurement Officials
- Achieved Agency Certification Award from Universal Public Procurement Certification Council
- Increased Countywide savings through reviewing capital requests, consolidating department requirements, leveraging larger volume purchases, and negotiating with suppliers
- Improved contract monitoring by auditing contracts to ensure proper contract pricing
- Continued participation with cooperative purchasing groups that leverage the collective expertise and experience of our organization, motivating innovation and competition



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Glover Oil Company Inc.

Space Coast Government Television and Communications

(321) 690-6843 ■ BrevardCounty.us/scgtv

Space Coast Government Television and Communications provides information about County government through a cable-access government channel, the Internet, the news media, and electronic media. SCGTV broadcasts 24 hours per day, seven days per week with programming such as Brevard County Commission meetings and Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, Palm Bay, Titusville and Barefoot Bay Recreation District council meetings. The station also produces public service announcements for county programs and services. Communications produces County press releases, the annual report, and employee newsletter, as well as handling media relations and social media including Facebook and Twitter.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Produced and aired 58 County meetings, including Board of County Commissioners, Planning and Zoning and Transportation Planning Organization. Totaled in length 118-plus hours, or 4 days, 22 hours and 53 minutes
- Aired 142 municipal meetings, including Barefoot Bay, Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, Palm Bay and Titusville. Totaled in length 333-plus hours, or 13 days, 21 hours and 18 minutes
- Aired 109 hours of Public Service Announcements, other shows and programs
- Aired 2,427 Florida Channel program hours, making up 27.6 percent of SCGTV programming content
- Total program hours: 8,784
- Original Program Hours: 5,630
- Percent of original content: 64%
- Produced: INSIDE Magazine promotion; 13 separate Creature Features highlighting various pets available at county-run animal adoption shelters; Special Needs Shelter promotion; Volusia County Emergency Operations Center Tour; Hispanic Heritage Celebration promotion; Guardian Ad Litem promotion; Sea Oats Sale advertisement

WHERE TO FIND US:

Effective March 2, 2015, Space Coast Government Television programming is moving from channel 199 to channel 499 as part of a Brighthouse Network initiative for standardizing channel lineup for Public, Education and Government programming across Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, Sumpter, Marion and Lake counties.

- Produced annual Legislative Delegation forum
- Participated in statewide Emergency Management Hurricane Drill
- Participated in local Infectious Disease Drill
- Participated in Brevard County/St. Lucie Radiological Drill
- Issued 430 press releases



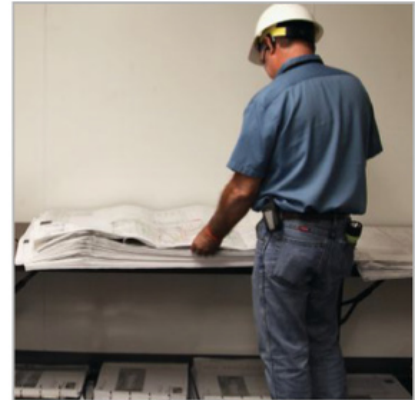
Planning & Development

(321) 633-2070 ■ BrevardCounty.us/PlanningDev

Planning & Development enhances Brevard citizens' quality of life throughout review of new development for compliance with building and land development codes.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Processed 15,000 building permit applications, estimated increase of 2,000 applications
- Investigated 441 consumer complaints and recovered \$20,965 for consumers
- Enacted a Wireless Telecommunications Master Plan to streamline siting of cell towers and maximize community compatibility through design standards
- Secured \$3M TRIP grant for St. Johns Heritage Parkway and a \$.5M crash safety grant for Stadium Parkway/Wickham Road intersection
- Partnered with local salvage companies for demolition and debris removal at three chronic code enforcement properties at little or no taxpayer cost



2015 GOALS:

- Complete consolidation of department to enhance customer service experience
- Implement electronic submittal capability for all development related applications
- Provide public internet access to development documents/records (such as building permits, site plans, zoning applications, and code enforcement cases)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Planning & Development's web page has a feature that allows you to perform an on line search to find a Brevard County licensed contractor via the following link: <http://web.brevardcounty.us/LicensedContractorSearch/>



Community partnerships along with funding from Community Development Grants boosted Code Enforcement efforts.

Bussen-Mayer Engineering Group



Civil
Engineers

Environmental
Consultants

Land
Surveyors

100 Parnell Street
Merritt Island FL 32953

321-453-0010
bmeg.net



Space Coast Area Transit

(321) 633-1878 ■ RideSCAT.COM

Space Coast Area Transit's fixed route bus service drives Brevard's economy by efficiently and inexpensively connecting workers with their jobs, linking students with colleges and universities, and transporting the elderly and disabled to needed services. Brevard County also has one of the largest commuter and human service agency vanpool programs in all of Florida. State-of-the-art vans seat 7-15 passengers and are convenient, reliable and affordable. The Volunteers In Motion program offers trained volunteer assistance to Brevard County residents that are too frail or elderly to ride a bus; committed volunteers enable the program to grow and continue to be a huge success story.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 2,341,831 passengers boardings on the Fixed Route network, an increase of 2.5% and a new yearly record
- Total system boardings of 2.94M in all modes of service, a new yearly record
- Increased the number of buses on the Fixed Route network to 29
- Began operation of a new bus route in Rockledge and Viera
- Implemented a fare increase in July, raising the base fare to \$1.25
- Interlocal cooperative bus bench and bus shelter program increased to five municipalities
- Completed construction of a new transfer station at the Melbourne Square Mall
- Provided additional Paratransit Service Hours
- Held first "Resolve to reThink Your Commute" Day in cooperation with CareerSource Brevard
- "Resolve to reThink Your Commute" was named the Member's Choice and received First Place at the Florida Public Transportation Association Annual Marketing Awards competition



Space Coast Area Transit operates the 40th largest paratransit system in the country.



"Resolve to reThink Your Commute Day" 2014 was held in cooperation with CareerSource Brevard.

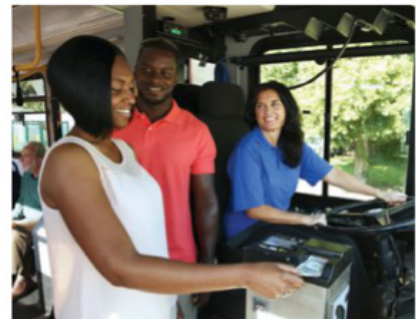


POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Space Coast Area Transit operates 29 fixed route buses, 26 paratransit buses
- Fixed Route ridership has more than doubled in the last seven years
- There are over 1,000 bus stops in the county
- Therefore, there are over 1,000,000 different ways to ride the system
- Each day, about 375 "route loops" are operated and 350 bus connections are met
- Boarding rate per hour is higher than in Houston or in Tampa
- 40th largest paratransit system in the country

2015 GOALS

- Fully implement Electronic Farebox capabilities on Fixed Routes
- Construction of bus shelters and benches along Minton Road
- Upgrading bus stops to include boarding pads
- Cooperate with Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization to implement the Complete Streets program



In FY 3013.14, there were over two million passenger boardings on 29 fixed routes buses.

THERE ARE OVER 1,000 BUS STOPS IN THE COUNTY

Parks & Recreation

(321) 633-2046 ■ Brevardcounty.us/ParksRecreation

Parks and Recreation offers a variety of leisure opportunities and park experiences to citizens and visitors to Brevard County. Activities are provided for all ages and interests, including youth and adult leagues, community centers, camping, natural resources and family-oriented activities.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Area Parks Operations

- Completed Chain of Lakes referendum construction of storm water lake expansion and trails
- Completed lighting, parking for people with disabilities, pavilions, drainage and fountain installation at Sand Point Park
- Completed pool deck, roads and recreation hall renovations at Manatee Hammock
- Held fourth annual Runaway Country Music Festival at Wickham Park
- Began construction of Wickham Park Community Center and had "soft" ribbon cutting
- Opened Brevard Zoo Linear Park
- Coordinated holiday parades in Merritt Island and Cocoa-Rockledge with more than 130 entries
- Partnered with American Red Cross to offer free swim lessons and water safety education to 300 disadvantaged youth
- Received two \$50,000 state grants for improvements at Erna Nixon and Bernice Jackson parks

Environmentally Endangered Lands—EEL

- Ribbon-cutting held at Fox Lake Sanctuary Hiking Trail
- Completed 110-acre scrub restoration at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Project (funded by developer as mitigation)
- Received \$117,000 from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for removal of exotic plant species
- Completed 230-acres of wetland restoration at Fox Lake Sanctuary through a wetland impact mitigation project
- Completed 15 controlled burns totaling 1,012 acres



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Parks & Recreation Department has a total of 124 developed parks, 62 undeveloped parks, 44 beach access sites, 3 county golf courses and 10 school board sites. There are three educational centers and approximately 22,466 acres of county-owned nature sanctuary lands under our Environmentally Endangered Lands program.

■ To rent a park facility contact:

• **North Area Park Operations:**
321-264-5105

• **Central Area Park Operations:**
321-633-1874

• **South Area Park Operations:**
321-255-4400

- In general, Brevard County Parks open just after sunrise and close at dusk. Parks with Community Centers and Athletic Facilities are open after dark for scheduled activities. Operating hours for Community Centers and Nature Centers may be obtained by contacting the specific facility. Boat Ramps are open 24 hours a day. For information or for reservations for events, call the related Parks Operations Office.

- Online campground registration was implemented for Manatee Hammock, Wickham Park and Long Point Park at <https://registrations.brevard.us>. For stays longer than 29 days or cancellations and changes, the campground office still must be called.

In November 2014, a "soft" ribbon-cutting was held for Wickham Park Community Center.

Public Works

(321) 617-7202 ■ BrevardCounty.us/PublicWorks

Public Works is responsible for installation/construction and maintenance of all County-maintained roadway systems, maintenance of drainage systems, traffic signals, traffic signs, and roadway striping; permitting of improvement in the County right-of-way; surveying; and construction of new and widened roadways, sidewalks and intersection improvements.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Maintained 1,096.3 miles of paved roads
- Maintained 82.2 miles of dirt roads
- Maintained 584 miles of sidewalk
- Maintained over 55,000 signs
- Maintained over 330 signalized intersections
- Maintained approximately 900 streetlights
- Removed 193 Properties (residential and commercial) from flood zones
- Saved \$898,504 for flood insurance policyholders (discounted premium)
- Removed 1,400 properties from the flood zone
- Removed thousands of additional properties from the flood zone by the facilitation of a new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map for Brevard County
- Completed the acquisition of parcels for remaining right-of-way and easements necessary to begin the Barnes Boulevard Improvement Project
- Completed acquisition of parcels for right-of-way and easements to begin the St. Johns Heritage Parkway, Southern Segment Project
- Completed Palm Bay Road and Minton Road Culvert Replacement 30 days ahead of schedule
- Improved customer service by implementing an electronic service request system through Public Works website
- Completed 13 Dirt Road Paving Projects (3.1 miles)
- Resurfaced approximately 13 miles of roadway within District 1 and District 2
- Started construction of Barnes Boulevard Project
- Started construction of South Segment of St. Johns Heritage Parkway
- Completed City of Cocoa Area 2 Stormwater GIS mapping
- Completed City of Rockledge Southeast Quad Stormwater and Sanitary Asset mapping and GIS database
- Completed City of Rockledge Northwest Quadrant Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer Asset mapping and GIS database
- Completed City of Cocoa Area 3 Stormwater Asset Mapping project



2015 GOALS

- Complete acquisition process related to St. Johns Heritage Parkway, Northern Segment
- Complete acquisition process related to Pineda Flyover Project
- Complete Land Acquisition related policies and procedures updates
- Complete City of Rockledge Northwest Quadrant Stormwater & Sanitary Sewer asset mapping and GIS database and complete City of Cocoa Area 3 Stormwater asset mapping project
- Provide surveying support services to Road & Bridge and other County departments more economically and efficiently by integrating new technical equipment and procedures
- Road & Bridge 48 hour response time to citizen complaints
- Map 25% of our road and drainage assets
- Develop an outreach program to increase communication with community on road maintenance
- Develop an interactive project map
- Develop a pothole repair program
- Streamline design plans submission from paper to electronic
- Provide map of transportation projects with status on Public Works website
- Improve accuracy and timeliness of accounts receivables/accounts payable process
- Provide quality purchasing management/internal controls
- Provide budgetary reports/support information as required
- Work closely with the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization to develop the ITS Master Plan
- Develop and implement a plan for improving management, operation and maintenance of traffic signal and ITS systems, in an effort to improve the quality of service provided to motorists
- Focus training opportunities on traffic signal operations concepts and optimization tools, recent advances in traffic signal technologies and equipment, especially those related to the use of performance measures to support monitoring regional traffic signal operations
- Develop a plan and identify funding sources to accomplish a series of signal retiming projects and ITS infrastructure upgrades, to improve operation of outdated coordinated transportation segments and reduce congestion and delay
- Develop and implement a system for annual reporting of preventative maintenance performed and repair of vehicle detection device malfunctions on all state road traffic signals

Solid Waste

(321) 633-2042 ■ BrevardCounty.us/SolidWaste

Solid Waste Management administers the curbside collection of garbage, yard waste and recycling for unincorporated Brevard County through waste collection contracts, collects waste tires for recycle or disposal, receives household hazardous waste, and provides yard waste mulch for citizens. Facilities include the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa, Sarno Landfill and Transfer Station in Melbourne, Mockingbird mulching Facility in Titusville and Titusville Transfer Station.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The new Sarno household Hazardous Waste Collection Center is now open from Tuesday-Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm. A grand opening was held in May 2014.
- Completed Vehicle Maintenance Facility at Central Disposal Facility, grand opening in April 2014
- Hosted 22nd annual competition ROAD-E-O of Solid Waste Association of North America, Florida Sunshine Chapter May 30-31 at Central Disposal Facility. Out of 51 contestants from around the state, Solid Waste's heavy equipment operators placed first, second and third in dozer, loaders and compactor categories

Contact your residential curbside waste hauler to schedule pickup services:

Waste Management (321) 636-6894 or (321) 723-4455:

All except those indicated below.

Waste Pro (321) 837-0055: If you live within the towns of Grant/Valkaria Melbourne Beach, Melbourne Village, Palm Shores and the City Cape Canaveral

City of Rockledge (321) 690-3978: If you live within the city limits of Rockledge

City of Titusville (321) 383-5755: If you live within the city limits of Titusville

Free for Residents-Household Hazardous Collection Center Drop-off locations:

- **Central Disposal Facility** (also accepts electronic recycling)
2250 Adamson Rd. Cocoa • Monday-Saturday, 8 am-4 pm
- **Sarno Landfill** (also accepts electronic recycling)
3379 Sarno Road, Melbourne • Tuesday-Saturday, 8 am-4 pm
- **Mockingbird Mulching Facility**
3600 South Street, Titusville
Monday-Saturday, 8 am-4 pm

For more information,

www.brevardcounty.us/SolidWaste/HouseholdHazardousWaste

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Brevard County reached a 52 percent recycling goal at the end of 2013, exceeding the state's goal of 50 percent for year ending 2014
- More than 568 tons of waste processed through the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers
- The Landfill Gas to Energy Facility is operating at 100 percent in the production of green energy. This equals the energy benefits of powering 5,668 homes annually or reduced carbon dioxide emissions from 66,727 vehicles annually

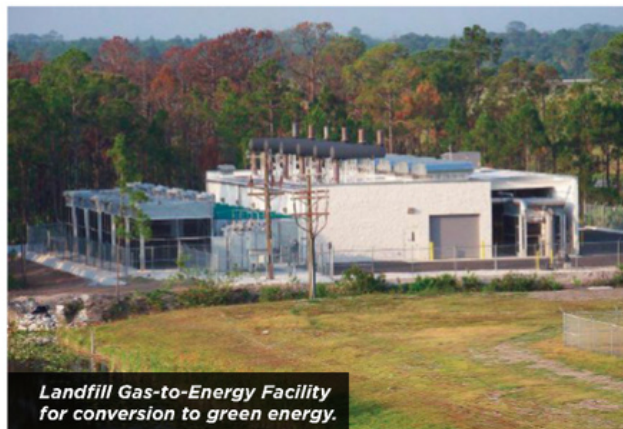
BY THE NUMBERS:

■ DISPOSED IN TONS

- Garbage: 577,232
- Tires collected and removed: 4,258
- Yard waste: 129,362

■ RECYCLED IN TONS

- Cardboard pulled from waste stream (Sarno and Central Disposal Facility): 220
- Metal pulled from waste stream: 983
- Mulch from Cocoa-Sarno-Mockingbird facilities: 159,773
- Curbside materials (unincorporated Brevard): 17,180



Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility for conversion to green energy.



New Vehicle Maintenance Facility at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa.

Natural Resources Management

(321) 633-2016 ■ BrevardCounty.us/NaturalResources

Natural Resources protects the quality of life by managing and conserving natural habitat and animal species and other natural resources of the county.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM • WATER QUALITY

- Received 2014 "Outstanding Achievement Award in Stormwater Best Management Practice Implementation" from Florida Stormwater Association
- Completed one regional stormwater treatment project and started three more to reduce annual nitrogen loading to the Indian River Lagoon by 6,273 pounds annually
- Amended fertilizer ordinance to further reduce excessive use of lawn chemicals, which was contributing 120,000 pounds of nitrogen pollution annually
- Seagrass recovery began in the lagoon after record-setting algae blooms in 2011-2013 contributed to the loss of 47,000 acres
- Over 800 waterfront families participated in oyster gardening to restore natural filtration to the lagoon

FLOOD CONTROL

- Provided increased protection to 328 homes through an \$800,000 project in West Cocoa. Another new project that began construction in 2014 will help protect 3,334 homes.

BEACHES

- Winner of 2014 Best Restored Beach Award from American Shore and Beach Preservation Association for Brevard County's North Reach (Jetty Park to Patrick Air Force Base)
- Repaired coastal erosion caused by Hurricane Sandy, by using \$3.4M in local tourism tax, \$3.65M in non-federal matching funds and about \$25M in federal appropriations to stabilize 11 miles of dunes and restore 14 miles of beaches
- Participants purchased more than 34,000 dune plants through the 10th Annual Bargain Sea Oats Sale, co-sponsored with Keep Brevard Beautiful

POINTS OF INTEREST:

SEA OATS: During the 10 years of the Bargain Sea Oats Sale, over 250,000 dune plants have been purchased and planted by individual residents, non-profit organizations and cities to restore eroded dunes along our beaches.

MOSQUITO CONTROL: Mosquito inspection and treatment takes place during daylight hours. Mosquito control is the application of insecticides by truck and helicopter. Night-time adulticide spraying begins 30 minutes after dusk and continues until the spray areas are completed. To contact Mosquito Control call (321) 264-5032.

FERTILIZER ORDINANCE: A fertilizer ordinance was adopted to reduce excessive use of lawn chemicals, which contribute an estimated 120,000 pounds of nitrogen pollution annually to area waterways.

OYSTER GARDENING: Next year, oyster gardening will exceed the initial goal of one million filter feeders at one thousand sites and those gardens will filter 25,000,000 gallons of lagoon water per day. To become an oyster gardener volunteer, contact the Brevard Zoo.

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION and COMPLIANCE

- Performed over 554 inspections at 462 facilities
- Completed the review and oversight of 129 FDEP-contracted petroleum cleanups
- Conducted compliance assistance visits at 668 Hazardous Waste Small Quantity Generator facilities

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Increased environmental reviews 12% from last year as development continues to recover
- Supported other departments and municipalities in management of 550 acres of county-owned lands
- Volunteers contributed 2,600 hours, resulting in \$60,000 in savings

MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

- Conducted 1,800 virus tests on sentinel chickens in joint effort with Department of Health. Tests detect viruses such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis and Eastern Equine encephalitis
- Conducted nearly 100,000 ground inspections and maintained 900 mosquito surveillance traps
- Treated over 2M acres for mosquitoes in ground and air operations
- Treated 1,158 acres with herbiciding actions to improve water flow and eliminate mosquito breeding habitats, while district efforts resulted in 124 tons of discarded tires being taken to the landfill
- Managed or assisted in the management of 28,000 acres of impoundments
- Aviation Unit flew 168 missions for mosquito control and other government operations

FREE!!

HAZARDOUS WASTE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE INSPECTIONS TO BREVARD SMALL BUSINESSES!

In an effort to foster compliance and avoid potential enforcement with Federal and State Hazardous Waste Rules, NRM will perform a compliance assistance visit of your business at NO cost. The Program is designed to educate small businesses regarding pollution prevention and provide them with the tools necessary to stay in compliance with complex Regulations.



Call:

(321) 633-2017 EXT. 6 to Schedule an Appointment

University of Florida Extension Office

(321) 633-1702 ■ Brevard.ifas.ufl.edu

In 2014, the University of Florida Brevard County Extension Service reached more than 90,000 youths and adults through educational programs on topics such as healthy living, agricultural production, local food systems, financial well-being, sustainability, community development and environmental issues.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 9,392 youths participated in 4-H & Development programs
- 921 residents learned how to reduce credit, budget more effectively, save more money, conserve energy or earn extra income by selling on the Internet
- 10,323 residents learned how to maintain a healthy landscape while protecting waterways.
- 47,038 youths or senior citizens learned about nutrition and the benefits of exercise
- 11,000+ residents learned about the importance of agriculture in Brevard County



4-H'er Colton Shephard checks on his chickens.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Introduced Brevard County Market Poultry Project, which included 40 youth, and 29 youth exhibiting their animals at Brevard County Fair
- Partnered with Career Source Brevard and Housing Authority of Brevard to provide education on financial management, with a focus on budgeting and credit management. More than 250 consumers participated in budgeting, credit management and savings classes
- 225 consumers participated in child safety seat seminar to learn about proper selection, and installation; 112 consumers had seats checked for proper selection, installation, and use; and 161 child safety seats were distributed to those in need
- My Brevard Yard program was launched to teach residents and landscapers how to reduce fertilizer entering waterways through stormwater runoff and leaching. Two large neighborhoods have seen a reduction of 4,431 pounds of nitrogen and 72 pounds of phosphorous to landscapes
- Partnered with Health First to educate overweight teens in low-income areas. 52 teens and/or their parents or caregivers participated in an eight-week session and reported they are eating healthier and exercising more

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Tourism Development

(321) 433-4470 ■ VisitSpaceCoast.com

Financed by a 5% tourism tax, the Space Coast Office of Tourism promotes the Space Coast on a national and international level to draw visitors to our area; finances improvement, maintenance, renourishment and erosion control for our beaches; operates a Visitor Information Center at Kennedy Space Center; maintains funds for capital facilities improvements; promotes cultural and special events via the Brevard Cultural Alliance; funds the construction of the Brevard Zoo and the Space Coast Stadium.

MAJOR

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Collected \$9.6M in annual bed tax; 26.6 % above budgeted projections and 11.7% above the previous year's collections
- Hired Eric Garvey as new Executive Director of Space Coast Office of Tourism
- Partnered with Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office, FDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain sand on beaches for sustaining tourism economy, local jobs and property values
- Placed billboards touting Space Coast as a tourism destination along I-75 and I-95 throughout southeast
- Became title sponsor of Gulf South Conference's televised football
- Received 2014 Space Coast ADDY Awards for jingle "I Need My Space;" a sales brochure for Space Coast stadium; exhibit booth, print campaign for Your Space For Fun; and campaign Your Space For Fun
- Contributed \$10,000 in financial support for U.S. Space Walk of Fame for move into larger building on U.S. 1 alongside other historic buildings in downtown Titusville
- Awarded \$75,000 in marketing assistance/co-op advertising to three Chambers of Commerce for 2014: Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce; Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce; and the Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida
- Partnered with Cocoa Beach Hotel Motel Association, Kennedy Space Center, Port Canaveral, and Melbourne International Airport supplementing our budget in 2014 by \$350,000
- Awarded \$170,000 to Keep Brevard Beautiful to clean our beaches



- Sponsored major special events and partnered with hotels to package events that helped spice up the slow seasons. Events included the Melbourne Air & Space Show; Runaway County Music Fest; 17th Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival; Space Coast Marathon; Melbourne Beaches Music Marathon; Arts and Algorithms; and Smoke on the Water fireworks display
- Approved \$16,000 to help fund 260 new rip current warning signs that went up along 53 miles of public beaches. A link to Bright House Networks app provides weather warnings accessible by smart phone—a race to recover America's missing children. TDO staff Bonnie King and astronaut Jon McBride sponsored a car in the "race". The Space Coast was promoted at each stopping point. 2015 Fireball will end on Florida's Space Coast

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Office of Tourism expanded its office in Cocoa Village to better serve tourists. It also staffs a visitor's information center at the Kennedy Space Center.
- For information about the Space Coast visit visitspacecoast.com
- Visit www.spacecoasthiddengems.com for self-guided adventures featuring wildlife, history, space, surfing and shopping attractions recommended by locals.
- A Snooze & Cruise brochure is offered for cruise passengers and features information on overnight stays and transportation to and from cruise terminals. Many local hotels offer free parking and transportation for cruise passengers with an overnight stay before or after a cruise.

2015 GOALS

- Increase visitation
- Increase length of stay
- Increase visitor spending
- Continued Space Coast Sports Promotions contract with The Buchanan Company to promote our area as a destination for sporting events. Over 50 events were held between October 2013 and September 2014 bringing in approximately 30,806 tracked room nights and over \$19 million in economic impact
- Latin America is the largest growth market for the State, with Brazil now the number one international market in Orlando in 2013, overtaking the UK. Retained TM Latin America to assist in developing the Space Coast brand.
- Worked with production companies to film documentaries; music videos; and fashion shoots
- Sponsored the annual Melbourne Independent Film Festival
- Participated with Space Coast partners in FLORIDA TOURISM DAY at the Capitol in Tallahassee



Insights for the real economy

The middle market makes up one-third of the U.S economy, employs one-third of its workforce, and is often referred to by McGladrey as the “real economy.” As the leading provider of assurance, tax and consulting services to middle market businesses, McGladrey continues to address the unique opportunities, issues and challenges facing middle market businesses and the industries in which they operate.

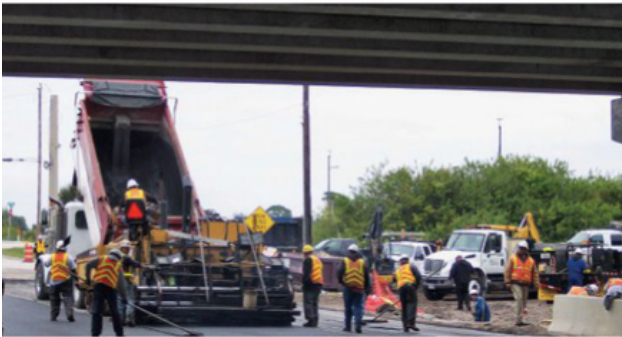
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